

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

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The International Week

After setting up a permanent group of Foreign Ministers' deputies to accelerate defense plans, the North Atlantic Council concluded its London session. Meanwhile, Britain is reportedly ready to join a European Payments Union, a step which would mark an important advance toward the economic integration of Europe. Following his trip to Moscow, Secretary General Lie has proposed a Big Four meeting designed to resolve the UN impasse over Chinese representation.

Pressure on UN members mounting. As the Fifth General Assembly, which may be decisive for the future of the UN, draws near, it is clear that members will be faced with increasing pressure to break the present deadlock. Although no immediate steps toward ending the Soviet walkout were reported either by Secretary-General Lie after his discussions in Moscow or by the Western Foreign Ministers conference, there are further signs that Security Council members are reexamining their stand on the Chinese representation issue. Despite indications that Egypt may soon favor the admission of the Communists to the SC, it would still require a shift of one additional vote (or two, if the USSR boycotted the ballot) to oust the Chinese Nationalist delegate. In any case, the coming months will be devoted to a reappraisal of the long-term advantages of the UN for preserving international peace and security.

What Dixon faces in Kashmir. Sir Owen Dixon, the Kashmir mediator, now enroute to Asia, will probably be able to make little progress toward a settlement by 14 August when he must report back to the Security Council. There has been no softening or relaxing of basic positions by either India or Pakistan since the SC passed its most recent Kashmir resolution empowering the mediator to effect demilitarization of Kashmir preparatory to the holding of a state-wide plebiscite to which both India and Pakistan are committed.

Despite its pledge India now balks at the over-all vote in the predominantly Moslem state of Jammu-Kashmir, and Dixon is keenly

aware that the Indians' ultimate objective is partition or partition with a plebiscite limited to the Vale of Kashmir. However, a plebiscite restricted to the Vale, now garrisoned by Indian troops and under the local control of pro-Indian Sheikh Abdullah, would cause the Pakistan Government the grave risk of losing the most desirable part of the State. Under these circumstances the military neutralization of the area would be extremely difficult. Faced with this situation, Dixon plans to use the tactical advantage the Indian promise gives him and will hold to the plebiscite line until some alternative or modified course of action can be negotiated which will not require either party to make too humiliating or too rapid a retreat from its stated position. At best Dixon can hope by August to make but a few preliminary steps pointing toward troop withdrawals from Kashmir.

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Myrdal's Moscow mission unlikely to break ECE deadlocks.
Apparently Executive Secretary Myrdal failed during his Moscow visit to enlist Soviet cooperation in the work of the deadlocked trade and agriculture committees of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Although both committees were established largely upon Soviet initiative, the USSR has effectively sabotaged their operation by refusing to furnish necessary information and by using them as platforms for propaganda attacks against the West. The US, UK and France, instead of moving to abolish these committees at the forthcoming ECE meeting, have adopted the common position that they will oppose further sessions until the Eastern Europeans modify their obstructive attitude. At Moscow, Myrdal's attempts to break the deadlock were apparently without success although he did gain the impression that the USSR is interested in expanding East-West trade, with a political settlement providing for relaxation of Western export licensing policies a necessary prerequisite. The USSR has declared itself ready to negotiate immediately on a practical level for mutually advantageous trade (suggesting a European grain agreement as a starting point), and Myrdal intends to seek written confirmation of his understanding of the Soviet position before suggesting that the ECE secretariat initiate preparation of a draft agreement. Since there is little chance of receiving a Soviet reaction in time, the USSR will doubtless continue to attack the West and display a negative attitude at the next ECE session on 31 May. Expecting that this will be the case, the US, UK and France will refuse to go on with the frustrated work of the trade and agricultural committees and leave the next move, if any, to the USSR.

Communists intensify drive for world ban on atomic weapons. The campaign of the World Peace Partisans Committee for signatures in

support of its Stockholm appeal "For interdiction of the atomic weapon" has now become the central propaganda theme of the Communists in most Western countries. Recent moves to strengthen and expand this campaign include: (a) efforts to obtain signatures from French Army conscripts prior to their induction; (b) the International Union of Students' call for the collection of signatures by students in all countries; and (c) the expected concentration on Soviet "peace aims" at the 31 May - 4 June rally of the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Berlin.

In the promotion of this campaign the Communists appear to be relying strongly on the efforts of such "non-Communist" leaders as Abbe Boulrier, the French "Progressive Christian", Dr. Endicott, the Canadian United Church leader, and England's much-travelled "Red Dean" of Canterbury. Such reliance suggests that they are seeking to isolate this drive from other Communist campaigns in an effort to decoy persons hostile to Communism into supporting the "atomic weapon" slogan. While the success of this tactic is as yet uncertain, the importance attached to it is indicated in the greatly accelerated efforts of the French "peace partisans" to win support in Catholic circles and in the recent publication of an extensive list of Catholic signers of the Stockholm Appeal.

UNESCO descends from ivory tower. The impact of the cold war on the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) may be the most conspicuous feature of its current conference. Turning aside from its earlier preoccupation with special editions of Bach and the world's great books, UNESCO is coming more and more to face the realities of the present world situation and to concentrate on its fundamental purpose of promoting peace and security. The US will urge amendment of UNESCO's basic program in order to emphasize a special project aimed toward peace, in particular the development of an "international attitude" among the German people. A different type of "peace" resolution, submitted by Czechoslovakia, reiterates the recent World Peace Congress proposal for banning the atomic weapon and asks that UNESCO invite all "workers in education, science and culture" to join with the "world movement of partisans of peace." Further, Director General Torres Bodet of Mexico may call for a meeting of scientists from both sides of the iron curtain to exchange views on means for maintaining peace.

Strategic role of WFTU "trade departments" further delineated. At the first of a series of major conferences being held in Budapest the World Federation of Trade Unions outlined to the leaders of its

12 trade union internationals their tasks in the Cold War. They were instructed to give priority to: (a) continued aid to Western workers opposing the arms program and supporting the "partisans of peace" movement; (b) efforts to establish ties with individual trade unions in countries where the national labor organizations have broken with the WFTU; and (c) intensified trade union activity in the colonial and dependent countries. The Soviet representative stressed that in implementing these instructions it would be necessary to make greater use of the radio, press and information bulletins, and to broaden cooperation with non-Communist labor in the Western countries.

Soviet ability to use the WFTU trade union internationals as a device for infiltrating key industries in non-Soviet countries was demonstrated by the participation of representatives of the Swedish metal workers, the Australian seamen and waterside workers, and the Australian metal workers. Conference resolutions indicate that strikes organized by such Communist-controlled unions in arms factories and ports will be a major target of Communist labor activity during 1950 and that, in the Far East particularly, the USSR will make a determined effort to block the flow of Allied shipments by inducing local dockworkers to follow the recent example of the Australian seamen's refusal to load war materiel for Malaya.

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Human Rights covenant bogged down. The decision of the Human Rights Commission to forward its latest draft covenant to the Economic and Social Council, incomplete and without vote the text as a whole, reflects a basic lack of agreement which is not likely to be resolved in ECOSOC. Although ECOSOC might transmit the draft to the GA as some Commission members hope, it will more probably return it to the Commission for another attempt at ironing out such differences as the inclusion of economic and social rights, limitations on the rights to life and liberty, the right of petition for individuals and non-governmental organizations and adherence to the covenant of federal-states such as the US which cannot necessarily undertake obligations for their constituent states.

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